

Together for Quality

Alabama Medicaid Agency

STATUS REPORT

October 12, 2007

I. Policy Workgroup

The Policy Workgroup did not meet in September. Workgroup members continue to research models already implemented in other states to evaluate effectiveness and applicability to Alabama. Contact will be made with counterparts in those states to try to obtain various perspectives. The Workgroup is scheduled to meet on October 15, 2007. It is hoped that conference calls with representatives from other states to question their models can be arranged on this date.

Report submitted by Agency Co-chair: Kathy Hall; Community Co-chair: Mike Horsley

II. Finance Workgroup

The Finance Workgroup has scheduled a meeting October 15, 2007, in conjunction with the Policy Workgroup. This will be a joint meeting with the Policy Workgroup to begin discussion concerning governance models and long term sustainability. The workgroup welcomes any comments, suggestions, or recommendations other Stakeholders may have related to this task.

Report submitted by Agency Co-chair: Kim Bath

III. Privacy Workgroup

This group participated extensively in the development and evaluation of the Request for Proposal (RFP). During the design and implementation phase, work will concentrate in the areas of consent, opt-in/opt-out and the agreements necessary to move forward.

Report submitted by Agency Co-chair: Bill Butler

IV. Technical Workgroup

As of today, the Technical Workgroup has met all required objectives in accordance with our assigned list of tasks. The Technical Workgroup continues to hold weekly conference calls each **Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.** to discuss and resolve issues. However, TFQ Technical Workgroup members are not calling in for the conference

call. Perhaps, the Technical Workgroup members may feel that they have accomplished their primary objectives.

The BizTalk middleware Enterprise Service Bus (EBS) solution hardware and software are in the process of being purchased by ISD. The Agency is in the process of acquiring quotes to purchase all hardware and software required by the vendor to implement this TFQ project

According to our group, at this time, we do not see a need to refocus or re-prioritize any task. During the design and implementation phases, workgroup members will be heavily involved due to their expertise and knowledge.

Report submitted by Agency Co-chair Lee Maddox

V. Clinical Workgroup

The Clinical Workgroup held meetings on September 12 and September 26. The September 12th meeting was held at 10:00a.m. at the Alabama Medicaid Agency with representatives of Affiliated Computer Services (ACS) Heritage present. Members of the Clinical Workgroup asked ACS questions during and after their presentation. ACS gave an overview of *CyberAccess*, their Electronic Health Record. They also showed *DirectInform*, their patient interface tool. An overview of the clinical rules engine-*Hercules* was presented. Members were told of their ability to hopefully pull text from documents such as dictation records through MDDatacor for integration into the EHR. Some key issues identified by the Clinical Workgroup included the following:

1. Ability to access data when the internet is down
2. Identification of process for providers to get changes made to allow their EMRs to connect
3. Need to determine rules to be implemented in addition to those for asthma and diabetes-Clinical workgroup will work with Medicaid and ACS to identify additional rules
4. Contacting EMR vendors was identified as key to success
5. Will need to work out Pharmacy related issues for ePrescribing function to make sure these are consistent with Alabama Medicaid PDL, therapeutic duplications, etc.

Several questions were asked requiring additional research:

1. Can providers with EMRs get access to the pharmacy numbers in *CyberAccess*?
2. Will there be money available to support pilot provider site personnel commitment/interaction during design/implementation?

3. How will interaction work with entire Children's Health system?
4. What is Immunization Schedule in *CyberAccess* rules based on?
5. Will providers be allowed to enter non-Medicaid patient data into *CyberAccess*?
6. What will the update schedule be?

During the second conference call for the month of September held on September 26, the TFQ Care Management Flowchart draft and Asthma Protocol Monthly Survey were discussed. The members identified the need for the development of a one page document to get initial sign-off on indicating the pilot provider's agreement to participate in the TFQ pilot. It needs to be clear that the default is "opt in" unless the physician opts out. The group indicated the need to include in the agreement that the care plan would be sent for their information and that sign-off was not required. Any care plans not signed within 5 business days would be considered approved but could still be modified beyond this 5 day period if the providers identified the need and submitted the changes requested. Members were asked to submit additional questions for the Asthma Protocol Monthly Survey and to delete any they did not think were needed on the present survey. Prior to the call ending members were asked to start thinking of questions they would like to include for patients with diabetes on a Diabetes Protocol Monthly Survey.

The next meeting dates are October 24th (Conference Call at 5:00pm).

Next Steps

- Finalize TFQ Care Management Flowchart
- Finalize Asthma Protocol Monthly Surveys, Adult and Pediatric
- Develop initial draft for Diabetes Protocol Monthly Survey
- Decide on Diabetes Care Coordination Protocol

Agency Co-chair Dr. Mary G. McIntyre

Additional Co-chairs Drs. Christine Ritchie and John Searcy

VI. Second Solicitation

The Agency was not funded during the second solicitation. Though no official reasoning was provided, we realize that it is the intention of CMS to fund as many different projects as possible.

VII. Contract with ACS

As announced, ACS was the selected vendor for TFQ. The contract has been signed by the Governor and work is beginning. The first contract deliverable is the project plan

which will be shared at the November stakeholder meeting. Workgroups such as technical and clinical will be integrally involved as we move forward. As in the past, the WEBSITE will be updated with information and the listserve used to communicate on a realtime basis. The Agency still anticipates having the ECST tool in place Spring of 2008, but an exact date has not been determined.

The next Stakeholder Meeting will be November 14th at 1:00 pm in the Medicaid Boardroom.